



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1801-MC-FFS

DATE: May 31, 2017

TO: Iowa Medicaid Nursing Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Nursing Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness (NF/MI)

APPLIES TO: Managed Care and Fee-for-Service

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: 2017 Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Grant (CMPQII)

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

*****This letter replaces Informational Letter No. 1792-MC-FFS issued May 26, 2017*****

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to announce the availability of the Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Grants for 2017.

Section 1919 of the Social Security Act and Iowa Code section 249A.19 allows the State to impose civil money penalties when a health care facility is not in substantial compliance with one or more participation requirements. These penalties may range from \$50 to \$10,000 per day, depending on the kind of deficiency recorded by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA).

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) permits states to direct collected civil money penalty funds for quality improvement projects that enhance the quality of care and the quality of life for nursing facility residents. Grant applications are available to various interested stakeholders such as nursing facilities, consumer groups, professional associations, ombudsmen, and quality improvement organizations.

Submission of Grant Proposals

Grants are available only for quality improvement initiatives that are outside the scope of normal operations for the nursing facility or other applicant. Grants cannot be used as replacement funding for goods or services that the applicant already offers. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the initiative will improve the quality of life or quality of care of nursing facility residents.

The IME strongly encourages potential applicants to consider initiatives that have directly measurable outcomes for nursing facility residents, such as projects to improve access to dementia care, reduce re-hospitalizations, to reduce the use of off-label anti-psychotic medications, or to prevent falls.

For the complete requirements and for interested qualified parties wishing to apply, please see the Request for Proposal for Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Grant on the State of Iowa's website for [bid opportunities](#)¹.

For consideration for a grant award, proposals must be received at the following address by 4:30 p.m. CST on July 12, 2017. Grant proposals received after the deadline shall not be considered. Applications should be mailed or delivered to the Issuing Officer:

Kera Oestreich
Issuing Officer
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
100 Army Post Road
Des Moines, IA 50315

Grant Awards

Grants will be awarded beginning October 2, 2017. A grant award review committee appointed by the State Medicaid Director shall review and evaluate all complete grant proposals received by the deadline for submission. The final decision to award a grant is at the discretion of the State Medicaid Director.

Grants for approved applications shall be awarded through a contract entered into by the department and the applicant. Grant funds shall be distributed pursuant to contractual obligations. **All grant awards are subject to approval by CMS.** Applicants should expect that the federal approval and contracting phase will take up to 6 months. No grant activities can be reimbursed until a contract is in place.

Applicant's Conference

An Applicant's conference will be conducted as a conference call on June 7, 2017. The purpose of the applicant's conference is to inform prospective applicants about the work to be performed and to provide prospective applicants an opportunity to ask questions regarding the RFP or application process. Questions asked at the conference that cannot be adequately answered during the conference may be deferred and responded to in writing. Participation in this conference call is optional, but recommended as this will be the only opportunity to ask verbal questions regarding this RFP.

To join the call, please dial 866-685-1580 and use the following conference code when prompted by the system: conference code 896- 995-3012.

Written Questions

Applicants may submit written questions and/or requests for clarifications of this by June 16, 2017. Any ambiguity regarding this announcement shall be addressed through the question and answer process. Questions must be emailed to the Issuing Officer. Please submit written questions to koestre@dhs.state.ia.us. Bidders may also wish to request confirmation of receipt from the Issuing Officer.

¹ <https://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/Home/BidInfo?bidId=9a25fa31-5f03-4eba-ba6e-f628c718720f>